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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/781,529	MA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	King Y. Poon	2624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to after final amendment filed on 4/18/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 3, 6-13, 15; renumbered as claims 1-10.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 01 April 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>11/7/2002</u> 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
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**KING Y. POON
PRIMARY EXAMINER**

King Y. Poon

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1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The invention is directed to a system and method of selectively removing/separating hand written text in a document with printed text.

Independent claim 3 identifies the uniquely distinct features of "wherein said handwriting separation module processes said request by segmenting the digital image into a plurality of text blocks, computing an observation sequence for each of said text blocks, computing a first probability for each of said text blocks that said observation sequence would appear in a predetermined Hidden Markov Model for machine printed text, computing a second probability for each of said text blocks that said observation sequence would appear in a predetermined Hidden Markov Model for handwritten text, comparing said first probability and said second probability for each of said text blocks, marking said text block as machine printed text if said first probability is greater than said second probability, marking said text block as handwritten text if said second probability is greater than said first probability, and removing said marked handwritten text."

Independent claim 6 identifies the uniquely distinct features of "wherein said handwriting separation module processes said request by segmenting the digital image into a plurality of text blocks, computing an observation sequence for each of said text blocks, computing a first probability for each of said text blocks that said observation sequence would appear in a predetermined Hidden Markov Model for machine printed text, computing a second probability for each of said text blocks that said observation sequence would appear in a predetermined Hidden Markov Model for handwritten text,

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comparing said first probability and said second probability for each of said text blocks, marking said text block as machine printed text if said first probability is greater than said second probability, marking said text block as handwritten text if said second probability is greater than said first probability, and removing said marked handwritten text."

Independent claims 7, 15 identify the uniquely distinct features of "segmenting the digital image into a plurality of text blocks; computing an observation sequence for each of said text blocks; computing a first probability for each of said text blocks that said observation sequence would appear in a predetermined Hidden Markov Model for machine printed text; computing a second probability for each of said text blocks that said observation sequence would appear in a predetermined Hidden Markov Model for handwritten text; comparing said first probability and said second probability for each of said text blocks; marking said text block as machine printed text if said first probability is greater than said second probability; and marking said text block as handwritten text if said second probability is greater than said first probability."

The closest prior art Bloomberg (US 5,181,255) disclosed a conventional system and method of selectively removing/ separating hand written text in a document with printed text; either singularly or in combination with other cited references; fails to anticipate or render the above underlined limitations obvious (to be used with other claimed limitations).

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2. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to King Y. Poon whose telephone number is (571) 272-7440.

5/13/05

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'King Y. Poon', written in a cursive style.

**KING Y. POON
PRIMARY EXAMINER**